

Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation of Disabled Adults

Any person age 18 or older who suffers from mental retardation, organic brain damage, advanced age or other physical disfunctioning to the extent that the person is no longer able to protect him or herself, or provide for his or her own care is protected under a law called "Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation of Disabled Adults." (SDCL Chapter 22-46)

Abuse is defined as physical harm, bodily injury or attempts to cause physical harm or injury. It can also include inflicting fear or threat of imminent harm or bodily injury.

Exploitation is the wrongful taking or exercising control over a disabled adult's property with intent to defraud him or her.

Neglect is harm to a disabled adult's health or welfare, without reasonable medical justification, caused by the conduct of a person responsible for the disabled adult's health or welfare, within the means available for the disabled adult. Neglect includes the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care.

Signs of Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation

Some things to look for which may mean an adult needs protection are:

- Signs of physical injury such as bruises and welts, burns, lacerations, scars, broken bones or serious internal injuries.
- Injuries that do not seem to fit the explanation given by the caretaker.
- Multiple injuries and injuries that are repeated or untreated.
- Use of forcible restraint or confinement for extended periods of time.
- Unreasonable refusal to allow travel or visits by friends.
- Lack of adequate clothing and good hygiene; the person may be dressed poorly for the weather, have persistent illnesses or is seldom bathed.
- Lack of adequate medical care or poor nutrition.
- Misuse of money or property for another person's monetary or personal gain.
- Unauthorized sale of real or personal property.

The typical victim of abuse, neglect or exploitation is an adult who is white, female, Protestant, middle class and dependent upon relatives.

Report Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation

Report abuse, neglect or exploitation if you know or have reasonable cause to believe that someone needs protection.

Immunity, civil and criminal, is available for good faith reports of employees, agents or members of medical or dental staff of facilities regulated by the Department of Health.

Reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation will be promptly investigated by trained staff. All reports are confidential.

What to Report?

- Name, age and address of the adult who is in danger.
- Names and addresses of guardian or relatives, if known.
- Names of other people in the dwelling and the relationship to the adult, if any.
- Description of the situation causing the danger.
- Any other information which establishes the cause of the situation and the manner in which it occurred.

Where to Report Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation

Contact your local law enforcement agency or call the nearest Department of Social Services office listed below.

Members of South Dakota's Indian Tribes should note that Tribal Ordinances may have different definitions of abuse, neglect, exploitation and different reporting requirements. Check with authorities in your area.

Department of Social Services Adult Services & Aging Offices

Aberdeen
422 S. Washington
PO Box 1300, 57402
(605) 626-3145

Hot Springs
2500 Minnekahta Ave.,
Bldg. 1, PO Box 729,
57747 (605) 745-5100

Mission
671 N. Marge Lane
PO Box 818, 57555
(605) 856-4431

Pine Ridge
Planning Center Building
PO Box 279, 57770
(605) 867-5865

Sturgis
2200 W. Main Street
57785
(605) 347-2588

Belle Fourche
609 5th Ave.
57717
(605) 892-2731

Huron
110 3rd St. SW, Suite
200, PO Box 1408,
57350 (605) 353-7112

Mitchell
116 E. 11th Ave.
57301
(605) 995-8000

Rapid City
510 N. Cambell
PO Box 2440, 57709
(605) 394-2434

Vermillion
12th Court St.
PO Box 516, 57069
(605) 677-6800

Brookings
1310 Main Ave. S.,
Suite 101, 57006
(605) 688-4330

Lake Andes
3rd & Lake
PO Box 190, 57356
(605) 487-7607

Mobridge
920 6th Street W.
PO Box 160, 57601
(605) 845-2922

Redfield
Courthouse,
210 E. 7th Ave., 57469
(605) 472-4220

Watertown
2001 9th St. SW, Suite
300, PO Box 670,
57201, (605) 882-5003

Chamberlain
704 N. Main
PO Box 430, 57325
(605) 734-4500

Madison
Courthouse
PO Box 474, 57042
(605) 256-5683

Olivet
Courthouse, 140 Euclid
Room 127, 57052
(605) 387-4219

Sioux Falls
811 E. 10th St., Dept 4
57103
(605) 367-5400

Winner
649 W. Second St.
57580
(605) 842-0400

Deadwood
20 Cliff St.
PO Box 607, 57732
(605) 578-2402

Martin
404 Third Ave.
PO Box 250, 57551
(605) 685-6521

Pierre
912 E. Sioux
57501
(605) 773-3521

Sisseton
119 E. Cherry St.
PO Box 230, 57262
(605) 698-7673

Yankton
3113 Spruce St.
Suite 200, 57078
(605) 668-3030

Visit us on the Web at : www.state.sd.us/social/asa

Discrimination Prohibited: State and federal laws prohibit discrimination in all Department of Social Services' programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability and political beliefs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination write BOP/DSS, ATTN: HRM, 445 East Capitol, Pierre, S.D. 57501 or call (605) 773-6941. If you have a question regarding program services, please contact your nearest Department of Social Services' office.

3,000 copies of this document were printed by the Department of Social Services at a cost of 13 cents per copy. DSS/ASA/3M/0203

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Department of Social Services
Adult Services & Aging